

## **FAMILY ASTHMA ACT**

Asthma threatens public health, and a strong response to this disease can save lives and money. Asthma affects more than 25 million Americans, 13 million of whom have had an asthma episode or attack over the last year. The disease kills 3,400 people and contributes to an additional 7,000 deaths every year. In addition, asthma causes 10.5 million missed school days and 14.2 million missed work days while costing the U.S. \$56 billion in healthcare expenditures every year.

The "Family Asthma Act" requires CDC to work with state and local health departments to formulate state asthma plans and carry out a public education campaign about asthma. The bill bolsters data collection to help target asthma interventions more effectively. It also requires CDC to make recommendations about the future of asthma prevention and management efforts.

## Bill Summary

- Creates State Asthma Plans CDC will partner with state and local health departments to develop state asthma plans to coordinate public health responses to reduce the burden of asthma, particularly in disproportionately affected populations.
- Strengthens Public Education CDC will work with state and local health departments and nonprofit organizations to educate the public about asthma. Public education efforts will include providing information about avoiding the consequences of untreated asthma and education on asthma prevention and management techniques.
- Enhances Data Collection CDC will collect data on the prevalence and severity of asthma, the effectiveness of asthma interventions, and the quality of asthma management. Data about asthma prevalence, mortality rates, and hospital and emergency department admissions due to asthma will be collected annually at the county level by age, sex, race, and ethnicity.
- **Develops Recommendations** CDC and NIH, in consultation with partners in the asthma community, will make recommendations for the future direction of asthma activities. The recommendations will cover steps the federal government can take to improve its response to asthma; steps that may be taken to decrease asthma morbidity, mortality, prevalence, and cost; identification of successful interventions; and recommendations for future research and interventions.